

# News from Idaho

VOLUME 23, ISSUE 2

March 2002

## **Board Meeting Dates:**

***May 16-17, 2002***

***Deadline: April 16***

***August 8-9, 2002***

***Deadline: July 8***

***November 7-8, 2002***

***Deadline: October 7***

## **Members of the Board**

*Charles Moseley, CRNA - Coeur d'Alene—Chairman*

*Dan Bauer, RN, Boise—Vice-Chair*

*Claudeen Buettner, RN, Twin Falls*

*Karen Ellis, RN, Pocatello*

*Sheri Florence, Consumer, Boise*

*Analyn Frasure, LPN, Pocatello*

*Judy Hansen, LPN, Jerome*

*Dianne Kinney, RN, Payette*

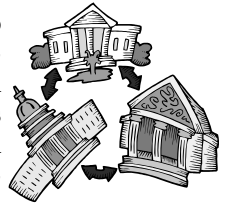
*Shirley Meyer, RN, Meridian*

## **Nursing Rules Pass Legislative Review**

Temporary and pending rules of the Board were approved by the Legislature and became final on 3/15/02. Rules relate to implementation of the Nurse Licensure Compact, to grounds for discipline, and to licensure by examination. The rules related to implementation of the Nurse Licensure Compact are a result of Idaho adopting the Compact on July 1, 2001, which requires uniform rules for implementation by each of the 16 member states. Additional rule changes were generally housekeeping in nature: consolidating and renumbering sections of rules related to denial of licensure, grounds for disciplinary action, standards for practice and limited licensure; clarifying provisions for licensure by examination, education equivalency and required fees.

Substantive changes that should be noted are:

- The requirement that graduates who do not take the examination within twelve (12) months following completion of their nursing education program may now be required to follow specific remedial measures as prescribed by the Board, and
- Failure to make timely and appropriate inquiry verifying licensure status in all jurisdictions in which the applicant has ever applied for licensure, certification or privilege to practice, will be cause for disciplinary action, and
- The addition of "professionalism" as a required standard of practice, violation of which constitutes grounds for discipline.



## **Governor Appoints Board Member**

The Board of Nursing is pleased to announce the re-appointment by Governor Dirk Kempthorne of Sheri Florence, Consumer Member, Boise to another 4-year term ending April 2005.

## **The Board Staff is here to help**

The Board of Nursing staff is available to assist you....

*Sandra Evans, MAEd, RN—Executive Director—Administration, Education, Licensure*

*Vicky Goettsche, MBA, RN—Associate Director—Practice, Discipline*

*Linda Coley, Management Assistant—Office Management, Discipline, RNA*

*Lisa Daniels, Licensure Clerk—Licensure by Endorsement/Reinstatement, CNM, CNS, NP*

*Nancy Dayhoff, Secretary—Secretarial Support, Licensure by Examination, Renewal support*

*Diane Mundlin—Financial Support Tech—Financial records, payroll*

*Karri Gilley—Office Specialist/Receptionist—Nurse Apprentice, Education, Greeting Customers*

## Significant Board Actions

At their November 8-9, 2001 meeting, the Board of Nursing members took the following actions:



- Approved the revision to the Governance Policy on financial planning.
- Denied two requests for waiver of the late renewal fee.
- Re-appointed Mary Jo Brooks, RN, Coeur d'Alene to the Program for Recovering Nurses Advisory Committee.
- Authorized a contribution to the Idaho Commission on Nursing and Nursing Education, Nursing Workforce Development/Colleagues in Caring Project for FY 2003.

At their February 18-19, 2002 meeting, the Board of Nursing members took the following actions:

- Affirmed the decision to grant presumptive approval of the University of Wyoming School of Nursing's professional nursing education program.
- Accepted the report of the initial on-site visit to the proposed practical nurse educational program at Lewis-Clark State College, Lewiston.
- Granted initial and provisional approval to Lewis-Clark State College, Lewiston, for the Practical Nurse Associate of Applied Science Degree program, for student enrollment beginning Spring 2003.
- Accepted the Post Master's Nursing Certificate Option as the equivalent of a master's degree in nursing offered by Idaho State University, Pocatello, Idaho.

## Nurse Aide Registry

On October 1, 2001, the Board of Nursing terminated its long-standing contract with the Idaho Department of Health & Welfare and transferred all Registry data to the Idaho State Nurse Aide Registry operated by the Department's Division of Medicaid. For inquiries related to Registry status of a nurse aide, applications for placement on

### *Nurse Aide Registry Changes*

the Registry, test schedules, qualifications for testing, or other questions related to the Registry, please contact the Idaho Nurse Aide Registry at (208) 364-1953.

For inquiries regarding nursing assistant practice as it relates to delegation by a licensed nurse, please contact the Board office at (208) 334-3110 ext. 21.

## Other Rule Changes to Note

Effective March 1, 2001, the following rules became effective:

- Whenever a change of licensee name or mailing address occurs, the Board must be immediately notified.
- The most recent mailing address on record to the board will be utilized for purposes of all written communication with the licensee.
- Any check submitted to the Board that is returned to the agency for any reason will be charged a \$25.00 returned check fee.
- A licensee may hold only one (1) active renewable license to practice nursing at any time except that licensed advanced practice professional nurses must also be licensed to practice as licensed professional nurses.

For a full text of all rules, visit the Board's web site at: [www2.state.id.us/ibn/ibnhome.htm](http://www2.state.id.us/ibn/ibnhome.htm)

## Congratulations are in Order



A special congratulations goes to Julie Hunsaker, RN, Rupert, who was selected to serve as a panel member for the NCLEX-RN Item Writers session in April 2002, and to Dianne Kendall, RN, Sandpoint, who was selected to serve as a panel member. The Board appreciates nurses who volunteer their time for this important activity.

## Licensed Practical Nurse Renewal Information

The renewal period for licensed practical nurses will begin June 15th and end August 31, 2002. Any currently licensed practical nurse who does not receive a renewal application by July 15th should contact the Board office (208/334-3110 ext. 21 or 23) to request a duplicate renewal notice.

Renewal applications are sent by First Class Mail to the last known address on record; however the Board cannot guarantee delivery, as forwarding times vary. Each nurse must assume the responsibility for renewing the license by the date specified. A white post-card verifying receipt of the renewal application in this office is issued to each licensee who attaches appropriate postage and returns it with the completed renewal application. Licensees who do not receive their license within ninety (90) days from the posted receipt date should apply for a duplicate license. *Requests for duplicates received within the ninety (90) day period are not charged the \$10.00 duplicate fee.*



It is the licensee's personal responsibility to keep the Board informed of all name and address changes (Rule 23.01.01.008.01.02). Should a licensee fail to make timely renewal of his/her license, a late fee will be assessed. In addition, licensees who continue to practice nursing without current licensure may be assessed an administrative fine not to exceed \$100.00 for each separate offense, to a maximum of **\$1000.00**.

No record or receipt of a renewal application will be made until the application is **correctly** submitted, including all required information, signature and fee. If a licensee sends in a renewal application the last week of August and fails to sign the form or does not submit the appropriate name change information, the Board has no other option but to return the form for completion. Because it may then be received after the expiration date, the licensee will be assessed the late fee, although the form may have been originally submitted on time. Only **completed** forms will be accepted. *The Board cannot accept or send FAXED renewal applications due to problems with scanning the document and will not Fed Ex an application unless the Board is provided with a valid credit card number for billing purposes..*

## Renewal Fee

Licensed Practical Nurses who renew their licenses for the 2002-2004 renewal cycle should be aware that an increase in the renewal fee was authorized by the 2001 Legislature and implemented in March 2001. The rules authorized an increase in renewal fees of \$5.00, bringing the

cost of renewing a license to **\$50.00**. Additionally, the late renewal fee was increased, resulting in a total of \$85.00. When submitting renewal applications for practical nurse licensure this year, nurses should be aware of this fee change. Renewal applications accompanied by the incorrect fee will be returned to the applicant.

## Idaho Joins Iowa and Nebraska—CRNA Opt Out

On March 14, 2002, Idaho's governor, Dirk Kempthorne, exercised the option to "opt out" of federal requirements for physician supervision of registered nurse anesthetists. In his letter to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Governor Kempthorne stated that following consultation with the Idaho Boards of Nursing and Medi-

cine he concluded that his request for exemption "is consistent with Idaho state law and is in the best interests of Idaho's citizens, rural communities and hospitals". Idaho becomes the third state, following Iowa and Nebraska, to exercise this option.

*Continued on page*

## Disciplinary Action taken by the Board

### Board Meeting—November 8-9, 2001

**Marlene Hulse, RN**—Issued an Order of Revocation by Voluntary Surrender

**Deborah McGinnis, RN**—Issued an Order of Revocation by Voluntary Surrender

**Sheri Oberlender, PN**—Issued an Order of Revocation by Voluntary Surrender

**Karrey White, RN**—Issued an Order of Revocation by Voluntary Surrender

**Rose Marie White, PN**—Issued an Order of Revocation by Voluntary Surrender

**Joan Whiting, PN**—Issued an Order of Revocation by Voluntary Surrender

**Cord Wilkey, PN**—Issued an Order of Revocation by Voluntary Surrender

**Laura Joan Nielsen, PN**—Issued an Order of Revocation by Voluntary Surrender

**Donald Kellis, RN**—Issued an Order of Revocation by Voluntary Surrender

**Lori Brandt, PN**—Reinstatement Denied



**Shanna Dayton-Stevens, PN**—License Suspended/Stayed

**Debbie Jones, PN**—License Reinstated

### Board Meeting—February 18-19, 2002

**Cindy Myers, PN**—Issued an Order of Revocation by Voluntary Surrender

**Debra Miller, RN**—Issued an Order of Revocation by default

**Jeffrey Dugan, RN**—Issued a 6-month suspension/stayed

**John Bartosh, RN Applicant**—Issued an Order of Denial of Licensure

**Harriette Underwood, RN/RNA**—Issued an Order of Denial of Renewal

**Mark Imus, RN/NP**—License suspended/Stayed/Probation continued

## Address Changes

It is imperative, and now required by rule 23.01.01.008.01.02, that the Board be advised of address changes. If your address has changed, please complete this form and return to the Board of Nursing, PO Box 83720, Boise, Idaho 83720-0061. You may also telephone the Board office (208) 334-3110 (menu item 2-2) and leave your address change on the IVR, or e-mail to: lcoley@ibn.state.id.us

ADDRESS CHANGE	PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:
Name	License Number
New Address	SS#
City	I declare my primary residence to be:
State	Signature
Zip	Date
Newsletter Subscriber? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	

## Duplicate Licenses Issued

The following persons have been issued duplicate license certificates during the period September 28, 2001 through March 12, 2002. These licensure certificates have been reported as lost, stolen, never received in the mail, or issued because of a name change. Duplicate certificates are identical to the original certificate with the exception of the word DUPLICATE typed above the name. Any person presenting one of the following certificate without the word DUPLICATE indicated should be considered suspect, and the Board of Nursing should be notified immediately.

### Licensed Professional Nurses—licenses expire 8/31/2003

Monica-Rae Ponder	N-23419
Valadee Rad	N-24286
Ann Burr	N-5839
Erika Nelson	N-27029
Duane C. Ralphs	N-24445
Donna Shepherd	N-13933
Sirkka-Liisa Spencer	N-30803
Nancy Caspersen	N-16108
Sarah L. Rowland	N-24670
Marnell K. Crane	N-29726
Melinda Meglen	N-24066
Caroline Barta	N-23790
Pamela Lee Decker	N-28564
Kimberlie Tarter-Hardgrover	N-27833
Cheryl Moir	N-30852
Corlene Becker	N-16760
Jackie Jorgensen	N-23130
Tawn Stringfellow	N-24648
Sharron L. Prokschl	N-10635
Ron C. Boge	N-12463
Jean H. Dingman	N-28210
Renee Ewing	N-28130
Deanna S. English	N-13731
Alice Trabert	N-24151
Lynn DuRall	N-29734
Brenda K. Wanke	N-24273
Juanita Jantz	N-21136
Carmela V. Sanchez	N-13806
Paige Smith	N-28719
Kimberly Rolfson	N-2847
Jeffrey T. Capps	N-25822
Mary Hook	N-23081
Maribee Sovereign	N-11239
Ruth A. Davis	N-10454
Chanel Myers	N-23601
E. Nanette Sherman	N-28242
Jason Thomas	N-28684
Kelly Histan	N-30308
Judy K. Hoopes	N-10563
Janet Olivia Field Quinn	N-22812
Yvonne L. Walden	N-28018
Yolanda Teseo	N-19952
Jody K. Brown	N-20861
Carol S. Dye	N-5191
Edith Haber	N-11607
Donna J. Page	N-17191
Leslie S. Klett	N-14480
Kenneth J. Page	N-17217
Tammy Turmel	N-28909
Susan Cornell	N-11970

Beatrice B. Jordan	N-27495
Nicholas John Perius	N-28991
Patricia A. Carter	N-12346
Nancy Gibson	N-12919
Sharon L. Calhoun	N-10042
Christine S. Hamblin	N-28869
Alice Romaine Anderson	N-12724
Christy R. Allen	N-28811
Paige A. Smith	N-28719
Marqaret Poulton	N-15289
Virginia L. Aupperlee	N-22815
Sherry E. Swearngin	N-27368
Cynthia Jeanne Johnson	N-18030
Elli D. Dutcher	N-22238
Leann Jones	N-26889
Chyleen Tucker	N-19457
Judith Marie LoBue	N-30025
Michael K. Clark	N-30452
Nancy Jo Hopkins-Garrett	N-10736
Donna Rayner	N-27084
Shirlyn Fullmer	N-30161
Lisa Kay Jurgensmeier	N-21423
Debbie Ernst	N-20595
Marcie Kowalczyk	N-27713

### Licensed Practical Nurses—licenses expire 8/31/2002

Denise Whitesides	PN-1163
Tricia A. Sloan	PN-11081
Deborah Patureau	PN-12295
Kimberly Dawn Zedicher	PN-11785
Christine Simon-Lee	PN-12035
Brenda K. Aldrich	PN-9063
Kimberly M. Hanna	PN-11415
Teresa Claxton	PN-9694
Shelle Boller	PN-11942
Maryhelen W. Hampton	PN-7267
Michele Anne Lengenfelder	PN-10451
Mary Erdmanczyk	PN-4748
Anna S. Lemmon	PN-5155
Leslie A. Blau	PN-10791
Melissa Anne Burgess	PN-10469
Israel Rodriguez	PN-9485
Wendy Udy	PN-10322

### Advanced Practice Professional Nurses—licenses expire 8/31/2003

Sherry E. Swearngin	RNA-410
Elli D. Dutcher	NP-395A
Audrey Omer	NP-442
Ellen Dutcher	NP-395A

## Enhancements to NCLEX-PN® Test Plan

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The National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) Delegate Assembly, with 55 of 61 state and territorial boards of nursing present, adopted enhancements to the *NCLEX-PN® Test Plan* document at the NCSBN 2001 Annual Meeting. The *NCLEX-PN® Test Plan* is used to construct each administration of the NCLEX-PN® examination. The *NCLEX-PN® Test Plan* is reviewed by the Examination Committee on a triennial basis and presented to the Delegate Assembly for adoption.

Enhancements for the test plan were arrived at by the Examination Committee, who reviewed *Linking the NCLEX-PN® National Licensure Examination to Practice: 2000 Practice Analysis of Newly Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurses in the United States* (Smith, Crawford & Gawel, 2000).

The Examination Committee recommended no changes in the structure or content distribution for the *NCLEX-PN® Test Plan*. In addition, the committee incorporated enhancements to improve readability and provide clarity to the *NCLEX-PN® Test Plan* document. Empirical evidence from job incumbents, professional judgment of the Examination Committee, NCSBN legal counsel review and feedback from the member boards as well as other stakeholders support these recommendations regarding the *NCLEX-PN® Test Plan*.

The revisions will take effect beginning April 2002; test plans will be available for purchase from NCSBN and may also be accessed for no charge from the NCSBN web site in fall of 2001 ([www.ncsbn.org](http://www.ncsbn.org)).

## NCSBN Promotes Safe Patient Care

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The National Council of State Boards of Nursing's (NCSBN) Delegate Assembly met August 7-11 in Pittsburgh for their annual meeting. Representing the Idaho Board were staff members Sandy Evans and Vicky Goettsche. In addition to conducting its regular business agenda, the 55 state and territorial boards of nursing present at the meeting passed resolutions adopting the organization's 2002-04 Strategic Initiatives; electing national officers for 2002; adopting enhancements to the NCLEX-PN Test Plan; amending the National Council By-laws; addressing the issue of mandatory overtime; and promoting consumer Board members as candidates for NCSBN office.

The following resolutions were adopted by majority vote of the voting delegates:

- 1) *NCSBN promotes safe and effective nursing practice in the interest of protecting public health and welfare. Therefore, the National Council recognizes the professional responsibility of nurses to accept or decline overtime assignments based on their self-assessment of ability to provide safe care.*
- 2) *NCSBN 2001 Delegate Assembly directs the members of the Nominating Committee to make every possible effort to present a slate of candidates that includes several public member candidates for the officer and director positions.*

## Check your Employee's Licensure Status

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The Board of Nursing encourages the use of the Interactive Voice Response System (IVR) by employers to check for current licensure of employees. To access the IVR, available 24/7, call the main office number (208) 334-3110 and select the RN/LPN Licensure Information System (Menu item 2). The numerical portion of the license number is required to make an inquiry. If necessary, an operator can be accessed by following the instructions (M-F/8-5). Please note the IVR CANNOT verify temporary licenses, limited or restricted licenses, or licenses for APPNs (CNM, CNS, NP or RNA).



To assist you with this process, page 8 is a "pull-out and save" instruction sheet to help you navigate the Interactive Voice Response System.

## Definitions.....

According to the Nursing Practice Act, 54-1402 (1) (a)...

**Certified nurse-midwife** means a licensed professional nurse who has graduated from a nationally accredited nurse-midwifery program, passed a qualifying examination recognized by the board, and has current initial certification or current re-certification from a national organization recognized by the board. Certified nurse-midwives who meet these qualifying requirements and are licensed by the board, may manage women's health care, which may include pharmacologic and nonpharmacologic therapeutic and corrective measures which focus on pregnancy, childbirth, the postpartum period, care of the newborn, reproductive and gynecological needs of well women as defined by the rules of the board. The certified nurse-midwife shall practice with physician supervision, consultation and collaborative management and appropriate referral.

**Clinical nurse specialist** means a licensed professional nurse who has graduated from a nationally accredited graduate program in nursing with a clinical focus, passed qualifying examination recognized by the board, and has current initial certification or current re-certification from a national group recognized by the board. Clinical nurse specialists who meet these qualifying requirements and are licensed by the board may practice as expert clinicians in a particular specialty or subspecialty of nursing practice. The clinical nurse specialist provides direct client care, which may include assessing, diagnosing, planning, and prescribing pharmacologic and nonpharmacologic therapeutic and corrective measures, health promotion and preventive care within this specialized area of practice, as defined by rules of the board. The clinical nurse specialist shall practice with physician supervision, consultation and collaborative management and appropriate referral.

The Nursing Practice Act and Rules of the Board of Nursing require that "the nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist or certified nurse-midwife must practice with physician supervision, consultation and collaborative management and appropriate referral" [Idaho Code 54-1402 (1) (a-c)] Supervision is defined as "designation of a course of action or provision of guidance and direction by a physician licensed pursuant to Chapter 18, Title 54, Idaho Code". Physicians providing supervision must be appropriately registered with the Board of Medicine and must comply with requirements established by that board.

## Board of Nursing—Quarterly Meetings

The Board of Nursing meets on a quarterly basis. The next meeting has been scheduled for May 16-17, 2002 at the West Coast Park Center Suites, 424 E. Park Center Boulevard, Boise, Idaho. If you are interested in attending this meeting and/or require special accommodations, please contact the Board office (208) 334-3110 ext. 25.

Items that you want to have considered by the Board should be submitted to the Board office by the deadline date indicated on page 1. Requests from persons wishing to meet with the Board must also be submitted by the deadline date. All meetings of the Board, except for executive sessions, are open to the public.

During each meeting, the Board holds an open forum for one hour. Individuals may express their concerns or make inquiries of the Board during this time period. No appointment is necessary to make a presentation during the forum; however, you should contact the Board office to confirm the time of the open forum and to make any arrangements for special assistance. Action will not be taken on any issues presented, but may be placed on the agenda for future meetings. If there are no presentations, the Board will proceed with the conduct of regular business.

## RNA Opt Out— *Continued from page 3*

Consistent with state law, Idaho's RNAs will continue to collaborate with licensed physicians in performing anesthesia functions. The unique practice of registered nurse anesthetists has been recognized in Idaho

since 1987. Currently the Board of Nursing licenses 282 RNAs, who practice independently as advanced practice registered nurses.

IDAHO BOARD OF NURSING AUTOMATED VOICE SYSTEM  
**DIAL IDAHO BOARD OF NURSING (208) 334-3110**

Press **1**

If you have a touch tone phone

MAIN MENU

Press **6**

If you know the extension of the person you're trying to reach

Press **1**

For information on the  
Board of Nursing's Address  
and office hours

Press **2**

For RN/LPN Licensure  
Information

Press **3**

For application request  
for Endorsements and  
Reinstatements

Press **4**

Additional Options

Press **7**

To Return  
to Main Menu

Press **1**

To verify an RN or LPN license

Press **2**

To change an address

Press **3**

If you did not receive a  
renewal application

Press the # key to return to the  
Main Menu

Press **1**

To speak to someone about renewals,  
listings, and accounting information

Press **2**

To speak to someone about disciplinary,  
office management, and CRNA info

Press **3**

To speak to someone about application  
mailings

Press **4**

To speak to someone about endorsement,  
examination, reinstatement, and advanced  
practice applications

Press **5**

To speak to someone about Practice  
or Education Questions

Press **0**

For all other questions (Operator)

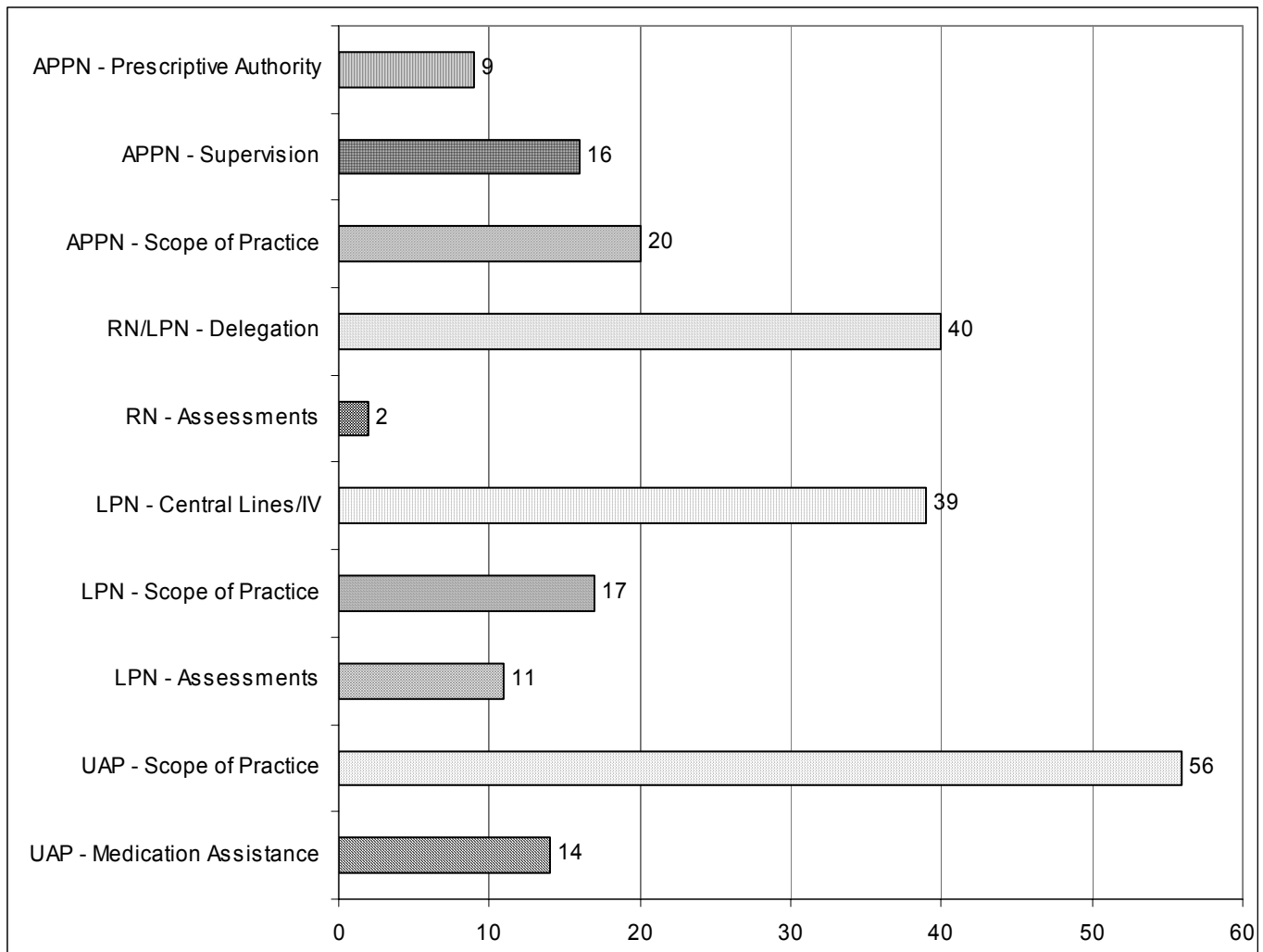
Press the # key to return to the Main Menu

HELPFUL HINTS:

- If you need to verify someone on the Nurse Aide Registry please call (208) 364-1953. The Board of Nursing no longer maintains the Nurse Aide Registry.
- The Idaho Board of Nursing Automated Voice System does not verify advanced practice nurse licenses, or temporary licenses. To speak to a Board staff member select 4 then press 0.



## Practice Questions by Topic—2001



Licensed nurses frequently contact the Board of Nursing office for clarification of scope of practice as it relates to a specific role they have been assigned in the work setting. Many questions relate to an isolated situation, however many others fall into categories that may indicate changes taking place in the health care environment, such as the nursing shortage, changing technology, advances in communication devices, and others.

The Practice Questions by Topic 2001 graph illustrates those questions asked most frequently during the past year. Note the number of questions related to unlicensed assistive personnel (UAP) scope and RN/LPN delegation. When analyzing the data, some questions come to mind: Could the emerging licensed nurse shortage be driving exploration of expanded roles for the UAP? Could the same question be asked regarding the LPN scope of practice for IVs and central lines?

The Board of Nursing will continue to collect and compile data in order to document emerging trends and existing practice. Please contact the Board office if you have questions and/or could use Board data for your

# Nursing Practice Act Amended by Legislature

House Bill 393, proposed by the Board of Nursing, was signed into law on March 19, 2002, amending several sections of the Idaho Nursing Practice Act. The bill accomplishes five specific objectives:

- Resets the maximum amount for fees assessed by the Board
- Creates an “emeritus license” for retired nurses
- Clarifies existing language related to discipline
- Includes “failure to report” as grounds for disciplinary action
- Makes technical corrections

Fees for nurse licensure are defined in administrative rules of the Board. The change in the Act resets the ceilings on these fees by establishing maximum amounts that can be assessed for initial licensure and for licensure renewal and reinstatement.

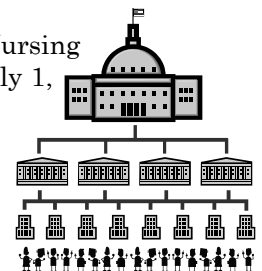
The revised Act provides for an emeritus status license for nurses who have retired from active practice, but who wish to continue to use the protected titles of licensed professional nurse (RN), licensed practical nurse (LPN), and all four categories of advanced practice professional nurse, including certified nurse midwife (CNM), clinical nurse specialist (CNS), nurse practitioner (NP) and registered nurse anesthetist (RNA). Board records indicate that there are approximately 300 licensed nurses aged 70 or older who may choose to hold an emeritus license.

The Board’s legislation clarified existing language related to requirements for reinstatement of “a license not timely renewed” (a lapsed license), and requirements for reinstatement to unrestricted status of a restricted or conditioned license. Current language in the Act does not clearly differentiate between these very different conditions.

The amended Act clarifies disciplinary options available to the Board to include issuance of a formal reprimand. Currently, the Board issues letters of caution as resolution for certain disciplinary cases. The proposed formal reprimand constitutes a severe reprimand for violations of the Nursing Practice Act that do not rise to a level necessitating licensure suspension or revocation, but can be appropriately dealt with more severely than by issuance of a letter of caution.

The change in the Act also adds as grounds for discipline failure to report criminal conduct or other conduct of a licensed nurse that will or might endanger patients. This revision will hold nurses accountable to do what is necessary to protect patients when they become aware that the behavior of a colleague is dangerous or presents significant risk.

These changes to the Idaho Nursing Practice Act become effective on July 1, 2002.



## Idaho Legislature Enacts Bills Effecting Nurses

Following one of the shortest legislative sessions in Idaho’s history, the Second Regular Session of the 56<sup>th</sup> Idaho Legislature adjourned on March 15, 2002. During their session, legislators passed several key pieces of legislation that affect nursing regulation, including:

HB393, which amends the Idaho Nursing Practice Act (see article in this newsletter).

HB483, which amends Idaho’s criminal code by adding a new section making drug adulteration (tampering) a felony.

HCR58, which urges a study by the State Board of Education in consultation with the Idaho Commission on Nursing and Nursing Education leading to development of a state-wide strategic plan to address the current nurse shortage in

Idaho. The plan will include specific strategies for expanding nurse education (especially into rural Idaho); enhancing recruitment and retention efforts; continuing health data collection, analysis and projections; providing incentives for attracting nurses into the higher education system; and encouraging nurses to pursue advanced nursing degrees. The Board of Nursing is the primary collector of nurse supply data in the state and has supported the ICNNE both financially and through in-kind contributions in its efforts to identify necessary data as well as a sustainable process for analysis.

SB1417, which modifies requirements for prescription blanks for controlled substances.

## Confronting a Colleague

Would you know the face of substance abuse if it was one of your colleagues? According to statistics collected by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, in a room of 100 nurses, about 15 will suffer some type of chemical dependency during their careers.

What to do when you suspect a colleague is abusing drugs or alcohol is one of the most challenging decisions of your career. Failure to identify the signs and symptoms of chemical dependency and to initiate early intervention can result in devastating outcomes for the impaired nurse, his/her patients and the organization.

Confronting a friend who is chemically dependent is never easy, especially when that friend is a health care professional. Let "Breaking the Habit" ease the decision.

Developed by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, "Breaking the Habit" tackles one of the most serious problems facing nursing today. This video program is for every nurse in every practice setting at every level of practice. IT CAN HAPPEN TO YOU. Being prepared just might save a career—not to mention a life.

Everything you need to develop a successful educational program can be found in this training package. The complete package is priced at \$279.00. An accompanying handbook for nurse managers is available for purchase separately for \$34.95. The handbook contains vital information about identification, intervention, aftercare and returning to work. These items can be purchased through Niche Communications, nichcom@home.com or (410) 335-2618.



## Nurse Licensure Compact—An Update

On July 1, 2001 the Idaho Board of Nursing became the 13<sup>th</sup> state to adopt and implement the Nurse Licensure Compact. The "Compact" refers to the legal agreement between states to recognize the privilege to practice in any Compact-member state based on the active, unencumbered license issued by the nurse's primary state of residence. The "multistate privilege" to practice across state lines under terms of the Compact is granted only to nurses who have established primary residence within a state that has adopted the Compact, i.e. Arizona (effective 7/01/02), Arkansas, Delaware, Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota (effective date to be announced), South Dakota, Texas, Utah and Wisconsin.

Since implementation of the Compact in July 2001, nurses licensed in another Compact state but residing in Idaho, have been directed to seek Idaho licensure in order to continue practicing.

Likewise, Idaho licenses of nurses declaring another Compact state as their primary state of residence, have been declared lapsed until that time that the nurse declares Idaho as a primary state of residence.

Board records indicate the majority of nurses who did not renew Idaho licenses in 2001 because of primary residence in another Compact state declared Utah as their state of residence, with the remaining numbers primarily residing in Texas and North Carolina. Records also indicate that 2,174 nurses licensed in Idaho have addresses in states other than Idaho. These nurses either claim Idaho as their primary state of residence even though they currently reside in another Compact state (e.g. members of the armed services or persons with two Compact-state residences the primary one of which is Idaho) or nurses who live in non-Compact states and who practice nursing in Idaho.



Visit the Board at its Web Site—[www2.state.id.us/ibn/ibnhome](http://www2.state.id.us/ibn/ibnhome). The Web site has information about the Nursing Practice Act, Administrative Rules, How to File a Complaint, the Program for Recovering Nurses and much more. Visit us often.

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The Board of Nursing's newsletter, "News from Idaho" is sent to all major employers of nurses in Idaho at no charge. These facilities are encouraged to duplicate and distribute this newsletter to all employees. Individuals who would like to receive their own copy of the Board's newsletter (published March/September) should complete the Subscription Request Form and submit it to the Board office with the \$2.00 fee (plus 10 cents tax). A five-year subscription is available for \$8.50 (plus 43 cents tax). If you report an address change to the Board, please indicate that you are also receive a copy of this publication so that both databases are updated.

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03/02—600

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